



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
OFFICE OF CAMPAIGN & POLITICAL FINANCE

ONE ASHBURTON PLACE, ROOM 1007

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02108

(617) 727-8352

(800) 462-OCPF

MARY F. MCTIGUE
DIRECTOR

August 29, 1989
AO-89-20

Robert D. Wetmore
State Senate
Room 409
State House
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Senator Wetmore:

This letter is response to your recent request for an advisory opinion concerning the lease of an automobile by your political committee, the Committee to Re-Elect Senator Robert D. Wetmore (the "Committee").

You have stated that thirty-nine boards of selectmen and other attendant boards and commission in the towns that you represent often encounter problems which require your presence at meetings in all parts of your district. Additionally, you hold regularly-scheduled office hours at locations in your district which are designed to facilitate constituent service. Furthermore, you attend numerous meetings and social functions of civic groups, fraternal organizations and the like throughout your district.

The Committee wishes to lease an automobile for your use in attending these various meetings and functions.

Section 6 of M.G.L. c.55 states, in pertinent part, "[a] . . . political committee . . . may receive, pay and expend money or other things of value for the enhancement of the political future of the candidate . . . for which the committee was organized so long as such expenditure is not primarily for the candidate's or any other person's personal use"

The regulations promulgated pursuant to section 6 of M.G.L. c.55, state that a committee may make expenditures for:

the reasonable travelling expenses for the candidate, speakers and other agents of the committee which may include the leasing of a car for campaign related travel, subject to the following:

1. Expenses are relative to a political activity or function, the direct purpose of which is to

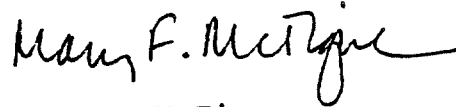
solicit votes or contributions;
2. All activities held and expenses incurred under this division must be within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

970 C.M.R 2.06(3) and 2.05(2)(j).

It is the opinion of this office that because the political use of any leased automobile would be more than 50% of its total use, the Committee may enter into an lease agreement for such an automobile. It is the further opinion of this office that the Committee may pay for that portion of the lease of an automobile which reflects the percentage of the automobile's use for campaign-related travel. The Committee may not pay for any portion of the leased car expenses which reflect the use of the automobile for personal use, including a direct commute to and from the State House.

This opinion is based solely on the representations made in your letter and solely in the context of M.G.L. c.55. If you have additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact this office.

Very truly yours,



Mary F. McTigue
Director

MFM/wp